

519-527 South Convent Avenue
Barrio Libre (Barrio Histórico)
Tucson
Pima County
Arizona

HABS No. AZ-73-10

HABS,
ARIZ,
10-TUCSO,
30/10-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

BARRIO LIBRE (Barrio Histórico)

519-527 SOUTH CONVENT AVENUE

HABS No. AZ-73-10

Location: 519-527 South Convent Avenue, Tucson, Pima County, Arizona.

USGS Tucson Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 12.502680 .3563970.

Present Owners: Maria Luisa Daily, Maria Fierro, and Angelita Valencia
212 #. 17th St., Tucson, Arizona 85701

Present Occupants: #519, Vacant #523, Mrs. Rosa Soto
#521, Juana Ortega #525, Vacant

#527, Cipriano Comacho

Present Use: Residential; apartments.

Significance: This row of five apartments, built in 1929, is the latest structure on this section of South Convent Avenue. Built of adobe in a Mission Revival style, the sculptured parapet is similar to that of the house facing it, at 504-506 South Convent Avenue. Between a large vacant lot and a former church building, this long row of apartments is a dominant feature of the Convent Avenue streetscape. (See also AZ-73-49).

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: approximately 1929.
2. Architect: None known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: See See chain of title below.

Block 240, Lot 13, arb. 35 and 27.

1909 Deed, October 12, 1909, recorded in Volume 47, page 538.
Miguel T. Carrillo et ux to Jesus Montaña.

1934 Deed, September 12, 1934, recorded in Volume 180, page 40.
Estate of Jesus V. Montaña.

1940 Deed, June 11, 1940, recorded in Volume 229, page 364.
Metz. Investment and Finance Company vs. Julian A.
Montaña et al.

- 1940 Deed, February 29, 1940, recorded in Volume 3479. County Treasurer and Tax Collector to the State of Arizona.
- 1943 Deed, March 8, 1943, recorded in Volume 253, page 391. Metz Investment and Finance Company to M. A. and Luisa Montaña.
- 1954 Deed, April 29, 1954, recorded in Volume 709, page 493. Estate of Manuel A. Montaña to Angelita Montaña Valencia et al.
- 1979 Deed, May 2, 1979, recorded in Volume 6019, page 1336. Valencia to J. Montaña.
- 1979 Deed, May 2, 1979, recorded in Volume 6019, page 1375. J. Montaña to A. Montaña.
- 1979 Deed, October 1, 1979, recorded in Volume 6124, page 754. M/ L/ Montaña to A. Montaña.

4. Builder: Manuel (Cruz) Montaña.

5. Alterations and additions: This row of five apartments appears to have undergone no additions or alterations since its construction.

B. Historical Persons and Events Connected with the Strucgure:

This building was originally constructed as a block of apartments and has always been owned by the Montaña family, although they never occupied the apartments. Jesus Montaña, the patriarch of the family, came to Tucson from Sonora, Mexico, in 1875, and died at his home at 136 W. 17th Street in 1928. His son, Manuel, and his wife, Maria Luisa, operated a grocery store at the corner of W. Kennedy Street and S. Convent Avenue during the 1920s, and were responsible for the construction of these apartments. Their three daughters are the current owners of the dwellings which have been rented to a number of working-class tenants since their construction.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION (See significance, above, and Barrio Libre (Barrio Histórico) (HABS No. AZ-73) for site plan and historical background essay.)

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Arizona Historical Society clipbooks (Jesus Montaña, Manuel C. Montaña, Maria Luisa Montaña).
Building slip, Pima County Assessor's Office.
Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps, 1909, 1914, 1919, 1948.
Tract Books, Pioneer National Title Insurance Company (Recorder's Records, Tucson City Directories, 1897-1979. Microfilm)

Oral Interviews:

Adelina Flores, 56 W. Kennedy St. Tucson, Arizona.

Eliazar Herreras, 1331 E. Waverly, Tucson, Arizona.

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Historic American Buildings Survey
September 1980

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) of the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service's National Architectural and Engineering Record (NAER) in cooperation with the Tucson Barrio Association, Inc. Funds for the project were provided by the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office and the Arizona State Office of Economic Planning and Development. Under the direction of Robert Kapsch, Chief of NAER, John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, Principal Architect, the project was completed during the summer of 1980 at the HABS field office in Tucson, Arizona, by Robert C. Giebner, Project Supervisor (Professor of Architecture, University of Arizona); William Joseph Graham, Project Foreman (University of Maryland); Ann E. Huston, Project Historian (California State University, Sacramento); Maureen L. Gerhold, Assistant Historian (Pennsylvania State University); Student Architects Scott Marshall Dolph (University of Arizona); Carol Jean Lemon (Washington State University); and Harrison Adam Sutphin (Virginia Tech); and Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) Summer Youth Employment Program Interns: Maria Arriola (Tucson High School); Ernest Cota; Lupita Lopez (Tucson High School); and Anna Trinidad. Photographic records were made for HABS by David J. Kaminsky, Photographer, Roswell, New Mexico. Editing and final preparation of the documentation was carried out in 1981 in the HABS Washington Office by William Joseph Graham, Architect, and Lucy Pope Wheeler, Writer/Editor, of the HABS professional staff.

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ADDENDUM TO
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